



Which is harder for you... to be truthful or to be loving?

On Sunday, we learned that it's impossible for us to be people of true love on earthly power because true love is intrinsically spiritual:

...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16 NIV

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 NIV

In order to live a life of true love, I need to have God in me, and I need to remain in him.

Is the Spirit of God in Me? (1 John 4:1-6)

According to John, we test spirits by considering their influence on people. If a person has the Holy Spirit what will that person say about Jesus?

If the spirit in a person is from God, how will he/she respond to John's teaching?

Evaluate yourself. Based on these two questions, is the Spirit of God in you? Does that knowledge make a difference in your life?

Am I Remaining in Him? (1 John 4:7-21)

According to verses 13-16, what's the proof of a person who is living "in God"?

How does John define love?

What do you think John meant when he said "Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God"?

What would John say about a person who doesn't know Jesus but is loving?

What would John say about a person who knows Jesus but isn't loving?

Take It Home

John wants his audience to affirm their faith in Jesus as the Son of God who came as a man to be our atoning sacrifice, he wants them to realize the presence of the Holy Spirit in each of them, and he wants them to sacrificially love each other the way God loves them.

How does this passage apply to you?



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